## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 GSA-02 SIG-03 SS-15 STR-07 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ISM:SHAAS:CJB
APPROVED BY EB/ISM:RMOGDEN
EB/ISM:MDEWITT
A/BF/OAG:JHSOUTHERLAND
EA/ANZ:CTWINING
COMM:FSIESSIGER (SUBS)
TRES:BBENTON

-----120267 171546Z /46

R 171310Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT: NICKEL DIALOGUE

REF: CANBERRA 6163, CANBERRA 6383, STATE 187764, STATE 183006

1. AUSTRALIAN INTENTION OF RAISING NICKEL FORUM IDEA WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GAO TEAM CONCERNS US BECAUSE OF THE CURRENTLY SENSITIVE STAGE OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS. WE INTEND TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS RAISED IN CANBERRA 6383 IN SEPTEL BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, WISH TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION WHICH ARRIVAL OF GAO TEAM MIGHT CAUSE IN AUSTRALIAN PERCEPTIONS OF U.S. POSITION ON NICKEL FORUM.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO BRIEF GAO ON NICKEL ISSUE BEFORE GAO TEAM BEGINS MEETINGS W-TH AUSTRALIANS, SOLICITING GAO'S COOPERATION IN REDIRECTING DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AWAY FROM NICKEL FORUM SHOULD AUSTRALIANS ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE ISSUE. EMBASSY IS TO SEEK TO ENSURE THAT NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION ON NICKEL FORUM IS PERCEIVED BY AUSTRALIANS AS THE RESULT OF CONTACT WITH GAO. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO IMPLY EITHER A HARDENING OR SOFTENING OF THE CAREFULLY WORDED LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 STATE 183006. WE APPRECIATE

EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIANS (PARA 9, CANBERRA 6383) BUT DO NOT WISH TO AMPLIFY ON THAT UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER IN MORE DETAIL THE AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE.

- 3. AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY PLACE CONSTRAINTS ON GAO CONTACTS WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS, AS PER PARA 3 STATE 187764, IN ORDER TO AVOID ENTERING INTO BROAD-GUAGE INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE NICKEL MARKET AND THE DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSION GROUP OF NICKEL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES.
- 4. PLEASE REPORT FULLY ON ANY DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH AUSTRALIANS TRY TO ENGAGE GAO IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NICKEL FORUM. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: NICKEL, MINING, MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE208670
Document Source: CDR

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: SHAAS:CJB Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** 

Film Number: D780336-0796

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsbj.tel

Line Count: 95 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: b99dfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 6163, 78 CANBERRA 6383, 78 STATE 187764

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1708054 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NICKEL DIALOGUE TAGS: EMIN, AGAO, AS, US

To: CANBERRA Type: TE

vákvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b99dfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

**Review Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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